

(copy)

WARMINSTER.

January 1905.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Following my usual custom, in presenting to you my annual report as to the health and Sanitary condition of the town during the past year, I will commence with the mortality and causes of same during that period.

The deaths of 81 persons, forty-four of which occurred in the first two and last two months of the year, have been registered in the district, equal to a death rate of 14.6 per 1000. To this number must be added the deaths of three persons belonging to the town who died outside the district, and in the same manner must be deducted the deaths of six non-residents which occurred in the town, making the actual number 78, equal to a death rate of 14.06 per 1000.

By a curious coincidence, in a period of a few weeks, three non-residents died in the town and three residents died outside the district. The ages of death ranged from five days to 91 years, and the deaths of persons over 80 years of age numbered 12.

One death occurred from Scarlet Fever, one from Erysipelas, four from Phthisis, and six from Cancer.

The Births, which are below the average, numbered 122, equal to a birth rate of 22.0 per 1000.

I will now allude to the presence of infectious diseases during the year. Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever were reported to me, ten of which occurred during the months of January and February. Six of these were admitted to the isolation hospital. One mild case of Diphtheria and three cases of Erysipelas, one of which proved fatal, were notified to me.

Regular inspections, in company with the Sanitary Officer, are made, and the results of these inspections are monthly reported to the Council. Some cottages in Carson's yard and one cottage in Brook Street were reported as out of repair and in the latter case the necessary repairs were done.

The dairies and cowsheds were carefully inspected, the former, very few of which are used to any great extent, were found to be

satisfactory and with few exceptions the structural condition of the cowsheds was good; but there is a want of cleanliness in the roofs and floors of some of them, and occasionally we found that the sheds were not confined to the use of cows only, but horses, and in a few instances pigs and poultry, find accommodation. We inquire particularly as to the cleanliness of persons employed in dairy work, and impress upon them the necessity of the hands of the milkers and the teats of the cows being properly cleansed before milking.

I am entirely in touch with some remarks, made by Lord Crew a few days ago at a meeting of the Cheshire Milk Producer Association, when he stated "that while it was the duty of Sanitary Authorities to safeguard their people from unwholesome food, it was perfectly unwarrantable to contend that a large proportion of disease in children was due to unwholesome milk. The areas in which disease and mortality were greatest were those areas where only small supplies of milk were obtainable", and he thought one of the greatest evils of Urban life was that so many children did not receive an adequate supply of milk.

The supply and purity of the town water has been most satisfactory. I have been able during the past year to obtain on two occasions a thorough analysis of the town water, and in both instances the report has been most satisfactory.

The bakehouses, which under the new regulations come under the Factory and Workshop Act, have been regularly inspected, and found in accordance with the Act.

The workshops in the town, which number 22, and employ about 100 hands, have been visited, and the necessary inquiries made as to cubic space, number of workers, and lavatory accommodation; but I find there are a great many cottages where glove making is carried on for a firm at Westbury, and no doubt I ought to be supplied with a list of these outworkers, as if any infectious disease were to break out in any of the houses of the outworkers I should be able to prevent the carrying on of the work as long as the infection lasted.

The means of providing a Smallpox Hospital for the combined Urban and Rural district has not yet been settled. I cannot help thinking that the buildings on the Sutton and Crockerton Road, which are most suitable for the purpose, could be obtained if the case were explained to Lord Bath. There is no spot more suitable and convenient to both

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30421640>

districts than the locality I have mentioned.

The sanitary condition of the town compares favourably, I think, with other towns in the County - a complete system of sewerage, a capital supply of pure water, and wide, nicely paved streets, the two latter making the town attractive by day, which attractiveness is often not visible after dusk.

I beg with this report to submit to you the tables furnished by the Local Government Board which deal with the mortality and other statistical matters connected with the health of the town.

I am,

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

FREDK. I. FLOWER.

Med. Officer of health.

To the Chairman & Members

Warminster Urban District Council.

WARMINSTER.

